VIETNAM COURIER

Nov. 3 1969

No. 241

6th Year

Information Weekly — E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

In this issue:

Our Uncle Ho

* His Native Village and Childhood
* Meeting Him in Paris

Pages 4-5

President Ho Chi Minh at work during the Resistance War against the French Colonialists (1945 — 1954).

The Time for Procrastination Is Gone for Mr. Nixon

MR. Nixon is endeavouring to cope with the mounting vigorous opposition to the Viet Nam war in the US. Even prior to October 15, the mouthpieces of the US government had let it be known that US President Nixon would deliver an "important" speech on November 3. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Rogers again and again praised what he described as Mr. Nixon's "efforts" and "progress" towards ending the war in Viet Nam. On October 21, Presidential Assistant Bryce Harlow circulated a "Fact Sheet" in an obvious move to substantiate such "efforts" and "progress".

BUT what are the facts? Mr. Nixon has repeatedly promised during his election campaign to bring the Viet Nam war to an early end if he was returned. He was in fact capitalizing on the American people's war-weariness.

Just a year ago, Mr. Johnson, then in dire straits, had to announce the cessation of bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN, hoping to gain, with such a de-escalation move, more votes for the candidates of his party. This, however, did not work. The angry American voters just wanted to oust the Democratic Party which they held responsible for the war.

A week after he became President, Mr. Nixon declared on January 27, 1969: "We have a new team in Paris. We have new direction from the United States. We have a new sense of urgency with regard to the negotiations. There will be new tactics." Public opinion gave him a period of grace.

The 100-day honeymoon went by and Mr. Nixon seemed to forget his promises including the one he made on October 13, 1968 in Key Biscayne to "end the war within six months". Indignation again was sweeping the United States. Meanwhile, US troops were suffering heavy casualties in South Viet Nam. At the four-party conference in Paris, the voice of justice of the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN was drowning the preposterous clamours of the US and the Saigon puppet administration.

On May 8, 1969, the NFL advanced a ten-point overall solution prompted by the basic principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and Viet Nam's realities. On the basis of the Political Program of the Front, and in accordance with the four points of the DRVN Government, the program reasserted the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, i.e. independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, stressed the demand that the US withdraw all its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam without laying down any conditions, made clear the correct view-point on the Vietnamese people's right to settle themselves their own affairs free from foreign intervention and, at the same time, proposed a fair settlement of other concrete problems arising from US aggression. One month later, the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam came into being, holding high the oriflamme of the South Vietnamese people fighting for their vital interests.

HARD pressed by events, Mr. Nixon hastily put forth on May 14 an eight-point "program" in which he completely overlooked the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, asked for "mutual troop withdrawal" and urged the South Vietnamese people to "refrain from the use of weapons" and accept a "one-man-one-vote" system controlled by the US and the Saigon puppet administration. Acceptance of this offer would be, for the South Viet Nam fighters and people, tantamount to capitulation.

In June 1969, after meeting with Nguyen Van Thieu in Midway, Mr. Nixon stated that a replacement of 25,000 US troops by puppet troops would have been terminated by late August 1969. In September, he announced the withdrawal of 35,000

(Continued page 2)

40th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Oct. 30, 1969)

MR. XUAN THUY REVIEWS LAST YEAR'S SITUATION

AT the 40th session of the Paris Conference, Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN Government delegation, reviewed the situation during the past year since the US was forced into an unconditional halt of the bombardments against the DRVN and the four-party conference on Viet Nam was convened in Paris.

He stressed that the Conference was now having its 40th session, yet no question had been settled yet. This is because the Nixon administration still persists in the Johnson administration's erroneous and bankrupt effort to drag out the war of aggression, prolong the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, achieve neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam.

With many concrete facts, the DRVN envoy denounced the Nixon administration's continued encroachments of the sovereignty, and threats to the security, of the DRVN, US kept-up reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam, and strafings of many places in the DRVN lying between the 17th and 19th parallels. Recently, on October 16, 18, 21 and 23, US aircraft bombed and strafed many parts of Quang Binh province. Particularly serious was the fierce B-52 raid on October 23 of Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province.

He scored Nixon's trickling troop withdrawal and his "Vietnamization" of the war. He criticized the US attempt to hang on to the militarist, warlike and rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration. He also strongly protested the US constant infringements of the sovereignty and territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia, speeding up of its special war against the Laotian people, its increased fierce bombings on the liberated zone of Laos, commanding and assisting the Laotian rightist army during nibbling attacks on the liberated zone controlled by the Laotian patriotic forces, such as the Plain of Jars and Southern Laos.

Minister Xuan Thuy severely flayed President Nixon's eight-point program. He gave evidence of

(Continued page 2)

South Viet Nam

Nam Bo:

1,000 Enemy Casualties in Four Provinces (Oct. 15-26)

Southwest of Pleiku:

400 Adverse Troops Wiped Out (185 GIs) (Oct. 15-25).

US War Crimes in Viet Nam

THE DRVN Commission for Investigation of US Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam in a recent communique denounced the US aggressors for continuing in the first half of this month to intensify their war of aggression in South Viet Nam and violate the sovereignty, and threaten the security, of the DRVN.

The communique on the crimes committed in both parts of Viet Nam in the period under review said:

SOUTH VIET NAM

ON October 9, US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird overtly declared that US troops had pushed up the war instead of maintaining a defensive posture, still might attack though not being attacked. The "Vietnamisation" of the war, he affirmed, is aimed at readying the Saigon army to withstand all uprisings of the "Viet Cong" whatever the outcome of the Paris Conference may be.

To carry out this neo-colonialist policy, the US imperialists daily and hourly sent aircraft of all types to bomb and strafe populated areas in South Viet Nam. B. 52s, wave after wave, continually operated in the airspace of South Viet Nam. According to *AP* (October 2), "in the past 24 hours, as many as 50 B.52s dropped 1,500 tons of bombs on South Viet Nam, 25 percent of them concentrated on the southern part of the demilitarized zone."

The same agency on October 7 reported that "on the night of October 6 alone, no less than 40 B.52s dropped over 1,000 tons of explosive along the Cambodian border"; and on October 14, "B.52s kept up their activities without decrease. On the night of October 13, 35 of them in 7 missions released on Phuoc Long more than 1,000 tons of bombs."

On October 10, the US imperialists turned over to the Saigon puppet navy 80 river patrol-boats and, at the same time, transferred the helicopter squadron No 213 to the puppet air force.

In its October 3 issue, the *New York Times* criticized President Nixon for "having advanced no non-identical proposition on the Viet Nam problem."

The paper added, "The troop withdrawal he speaks of is mere token. Weighty US forces on the battlefield carry on with the offensive tactics adopted since under Johnson."

On US orders, the Saigon junta unceasingly launched sweeps and terror operations. From October 10 to 13, operations of battalion-size upwards carried out by the puppet armed forces daily averaged 59. Before the puppet National Assembly, Thieu cynically declared: "Although drastic measures are unpopular, I prefer them."

AFP remarked on October 7 that such a statement had disappointed both the National Assembly deputies and the Saigon press.

NORTH VIET NAM

DESPITE bad weather, 260 sorties of manned or unmanned spy planes were flown in more than 100 recon missions mainly over provinces from the 17th to the 19th parallels. 52 sorties were recoded on October 5 alone.

Tactical jets and B.52s frequently raided populated localities in Nghe An and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Linh area. According to preliminary figures:

In **Nghe An**: At 13.30 hours, October 5, 2 AD.6s attacked Nam Can with 8 demolition bombs, innumerable steel-pellet bombs and many rounds of rockets. On October 9, 2 T.28s, coming from Laos, dropped steel-pellet bombs on Muong Xen. On October 14, from 19.10 hours to 22 hours, 2 US jets dumped loads of demolition bombs on several residential areas in Muong Xen township.

In **Quang Binh**: On October 11, 2 F.4s fired 2 missiles on Kim Thuy village.

In Vinh Linh: At 18 hours, October 4, 2 groups of B.52s carpet-bombed Huong Lap village. From 21.25 hours to 22 hours, October 10, a group of US jets dropped by coordinate-reading two strings of bombs on Huong Lap. From 19.10 hours to 22 hours, October 14, US jets, group after group, unremittingly bombed by coordinate-reading Huong Lap village.

US guns from South of Ben Hai river, in 9 days (October 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14) wantonly shelled Vinh O, Vinh Loc, Vinh Giang, Vinh Quang and Vinh Son villages in the northern part of the DMZ with 250 rounds. Vinh Son alone received 190 shells.

Off shore, US warships operated on a permanent basis from Nghe An to Vinh Linh, with a daily average of 13 ships on duty. At times, they intruded into the DRVN territorial waters, endangering the routine activities of the coastal fishermen. On October 14, 14 US warships roamed about 15 km only from the Cua Nhuong river mouth in Ha Tinh province.

40th Plenary Session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Oct. 30, 1969)

Mr. Xuan Thuy Reviews Last Year's Situation

(*Continued from page 1*)

the goodwill and the serious attitude of the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam desirous of a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question on the basis of respect for the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people.

He pointed out:

"The Vietnamese people are determined to resist the policy of war and aggression of the US authorities, but they always regard the American people as their friends and want to consolidate their friendship with them.

"The American people will step up their vigorous opposition to President Nixon's policy in Viet Nam because this runs counter to the real interests of the US, because it wastes hundreds of thousands of American lives and immense amounts of American wealth, and smears the honour and prestige of the US.

"The Vietnamese people are grateful to all their friends, near and far in the world, and to their American friends as well, for the support they have given to their struggle for independence and peace. We are firmly convinced that this support will increase with every passing day."

"In order to get down to practical business," Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded, "I request the US delegate to answer these two questions:

"1. I have raised the question of the total, unconditional, and speedy — within a few months — withdrawal from South Viet Nam of US troops and of those of the other foreign countries in the US camp. Well, when does the US government intend to operate this troop withdrawal?

"2. The delegate of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is prepared to engage in direct talks with the US delegate on all questions concerning South Viet Nam. Well, when does the US delegate intend to start such talks?"

After his prepared speech, the DRVN chief negotiator made an additional statement. On the "restricted session" with no public release of the proceedings proposed by H. Cabot Lodge, the US delegate, he commented:

"This proposal put forward at a time when widespread popular feeling in the US and the world is running high against the Nixon administration, is but a manoeuvre to fool public opinion and obscure US persistence in its aggressive war in Viet Nam and stubborn refusal to speedily withdraw all US troops from South Viet Nam. The DRVN delegation proposes that the four delegations will meet again as they have done so far."

The Time for Procrastination Is Gone for Mr. Nixon

(*Continued from page 1*)

more US troops which, he said, was to be completed by December 15, 1969.

Meanwhile, Washington has been raising a ballyhoo about "very constructive initiatives" by the Saigon administration, and B.52s have been carrying on their wanton bombings, devastating crop-fields and houses, and massacring civilians right at Saigon's gates, the US imperialists and their henchmen have committed extremely odious crimes in Ba Lang An, Kong H'Ring, Thu Duc prison, etc, and US warplanes have been encroaching upon the air-space of North Viet Nam and have bombed many places. In Paris, the US representatives have been tirelessly repeating the same hackneyed arguments. Last week, at the 39th session of the conference, Cabot Lodge refused to read his prepared statement. Observers interpreted this as an evasive trick to cope with the voice of justice.

SUCH are the new "efforts" and "progress" boasted by Mr. Nixon. All this only proves that the Republican President remains very stubborn in his scheme to prolong the war of aggression in the hope of imposing his will upon the Vietnamese people.

His drop-by-drop "troop withdrawals", are just attempts to gain time for the implementation of the "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" policy mapped out at the end of Mr. Johnson's term of office. How can the withdrawal of 25,000 or 60,000 US troops — compensated by an increase in the bombing — have any significance in view of the presence of more than half a million US and satellite troops in South Viet Nam? To send troops to South Viet Nam is in itself an illegal and aggressive act on the part of the US. Therefore, the US must withdraw quickly all its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam without any condition. There can be no question of "mutual withdrawal of troops" or withdrawal of US troops only on US terms.

Likewise, Mr. Nixon's approach to the issue of general election is aimed at holding fast to the Nguyen Van Thieu regime as a tool to realize US neo-colonialism. If the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people is to be respected, a provisional coalition government comprising the political forces standing for peace, independence, neutrality must be appointed to organize a free and democratic general election. This can be achieved only when all US and satellite troops have been pulled out from South Viet Nam.

TEN months have elapsed since Nr. Nixon came to power, but the Viet Nam settlement has made no progress. The Fall Offensive of the American people which got a vigorous start on October 15 will certainly heat up in November. The Vietnamese people are more closely united than ever. Their revolutionary mettle is stronger and their determination to win higher. The forces of the American people and progressive mankind in support of Viet Nam are gaining in strength and scope every day.

Mr. Nixon's sticking to his aggressive policy will only make US final defeat heavier and more ignominious.

"*THE revolution in our country still have many difficulties and hardships to tide over until complete victory. At present, you are entrusted by our Party and people with even more important tasks than before. So I would like to remind you of the few points:*

— *Both teachers and students must constantly* enhance their love of the fatherland and socialism, strengthen their revolutionary feelings towards the workers and peasants, show absolute loyalty to the revolution and complete confidence in the leadership of the Party, *stand ready to fulfil any task assigned by the Party and the people and ceaselessly strive to be worthy of our heroic Southern compatriots.*

— *No matter how great the difficulties, they must* continue to emulate each other in teaching well and learning well. *On the basis of* political education and good ideological leadership, *they must* strive to raise their cultural and professional level, *so as to find* practical *solutions to the problems posed by the revolution in our country and, in a not distant future, attain the heights of science and technique.*

— *Together you must* organise and manage better and better your material and spiritual life *at school and take ever better care of your health and security.*"

— Excerpt from President HO CHI MINH's Message to cadres, teachers, workers, employees, pupils and students in infant schools, general education schools, complementary education classes, secondary vocational schools, colleges and universities on the opening of the 1968-1969 school year

Education in DRVN Highlands

A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR EVERY VILLAGE

BEFORE the August 1945 Revolution, virtually 100% of the working people of the national minorities in our country were illiterate. On an average, there was only a primary school for every province. All the mountain areas had only an elementary school, and an incomplete one at that, established in Lang Son province capital. In the whole region, those who had received secondary education could be counted on the fingers of one hand. That was what the "civilizing mission" of the French colonialists brought to the Vietnamese people after 80 years of their domination.

The low cultural standard prevented the national minorities from fully exercising their right to political and economic equality after the victory of the revolution.

Under the slogan "Wipe out illiteracy" and in execution of the policy of developing culture after the August Revolution and during the war of resistance, and of cultural revolution since the restoration of peace in 1954, the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government have worked out policies and concrete measures to develop education among all nationalities in the country.

At present, illiteracy has been liquidated in the whole lowlands and most of the mountain provinces. Every years, from 50,000 to 60,000 people attend adult complementary education courses in all the three degrees (primary, elementary and secondary).

In general education, every village now has a primary and an elementary school and three-quarters of the districts have a secondary school each. Enrolments of secondary schools in the 1968-1969 school-year totalled 550,000, a sixfold increase compared with the period after the restoration of peace and 40 times compared with 1939, the peak year for education in the mountains under French rule. Also in 1968-1969 there were 4,000 students of secondary vocational schools, not including graduates who had got jobs in various establishments. More than 1,000 students are attending colleges and universities at home or abroad, or twice as many university students as in the whole French Indochina in 1939. Binh Long village (Cao Bang province) alone boasts 15 university students.

Children of minority origin from South Viet Nam who followed their parents regrouped into the North after the signing of the Geneva Agreements have also received adequate cultural and technical education in preparation for eventual construction jobs in South Viet Nam. At present, apart from general education pupils, there are nearly 1,000 students of vocational schools and 100 university students of different nationalities. When they came to North Viet Nam, most of these pupils had just learned how to read and write or even were still illiterate.

VARIOUS KINDS OF SCHOOL

IN the highlands of our country, in view of the primitive conditions of communications and transport, travelling from one place to another still is a big problem. Some villages stretch over a length of 40 km and it takes one or even two days to

(*Continued page 7*)

Bui Thi Pham, Zao minority, attending an anatomy course given by Dr Bac Cam Thien, of the Thai minority.

Youth Socialist Labour School in Hoa Binh Province

THE "Youth Socialist Labour School" in Hoa Binh province is now over four years old. Built in 1958 on a road-building yard, it has become now a vanguard school among North Viet Nam's educational establishments which know how to square study with labour, brain work with manual labour, theory with practice, for the all-sided training of pupils.

Up to now the school has trained for the mountain areas of the province over 3,000 young cadres of various nationalities with a secondary education level, Muong, Thai, Meo, Zao, Tay, Kinh. Many of them are now party and governmental cadres at village, district and provincial levels. Hundreds of others have been admitted to intermediate vocational schools and higher educational establishments and have distinguished themselves by their good studies.

A noteworthy fact is that since its establishment the school has received from the state neither subsidies for its management nor scholarships for its pupils. Masters and pupils engage half a day in productive labour and the other half in school work. They have improved 80 hectares of land, a large part of which has been grown with cassava-roots whose yield has been the highest in the area. They are rearing 400 head of oxen and buffaloes and 200 pigs. They have gone in for handicrafts and have now mechanical outfits to process agricultural produce, especially into tapioca, sauces, vermicelli, etc. With all the proceeds, they manage to cover all expenditures for maintenance work and other outlays.

With regard to education, the school attaches primary importance to inculcating the virtues of the working class in its pupils, to teaching them the Party and Government policies concerning minority nationalities and economic and cultural development of the highlands.

For all its achievements, the school has received a Labour Order medal from the National Assembly and government, a "Nguyen Van Troi banner" from the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union and the "Outstanding Unit of the Patriotic Emulation Movement and Manual Labour-cum-Study Model School of the Mountainous Areas" title from the Ministry of Education.

His Native Village and Childhood

(Concluded)

by HOAI THANH *and* THANH TINH

BEFORE LEAVING THE COUNTRY

DR. Nguyen Kinh Chi who is now working at the Health Ministry and was one of the pupils of "teacher Thanh" related:

"On the southern bank of the Phan Thiet river, some kilometres from the sea, there were then a few little houses with wooden bars as walls and where it was cold when the wind blew from the sea. Duc Thanh school was one of these houses. The school belonged to the Lien Thanh Company, which produced fish sauce and sold groceries. The fish sauce factory and the grocery shop were situated on the river bank some distance from the school which was subsidized by profits from the business. The school and the company had both been set up in the Modernization movement in previous years. In the then situation these were patriotic deeds aimed at opening the people's minds and encouraging practical trades. After the suppression of the movement, the Company was compelled to reduce its "modernization" activities. As time wore on trading activity prevailed over patriotic work of propaganda and in the end the school closed down, only the trading company remained.

"The school was still in existence in 1911. The pupils – about seventy, from the second form to the fifth form – were taught the French, Chinese and Vietnamese languages simultaneously. In the morning both teachers and pupils practised Japanese physical exercises. Teacher Thanh taught French and Vietnamese in the second and third forms. He usually wore a short jacket with high collar, a green belt and wooden shoes. His hair was cropped short. It was a boarding school. Teacher Thanh lived in the school. On Thursdays and Sundays goodness only knew where he went.

He had been at the school for eight months when one Monday morning in October 1911, there was news that teacher Thanh had left the school without warning. The pupils were very upset not only because he was a good teacher but also because they felt that he taught not just to earn his living but also for other purposes."

For young Thanh, his great worry had been that he found all the past movements very heroic but all had met with failure. The Can Vuong movement* failed. The Dong Du movement failed. The demonstrations opposing corvees also failed. There was not yet a way likely to save his compatriots from sufferings and oppression. More and more he felt the need of going abroad. The sails moving on the open sea called him irresistibly. But where to go? Just at that time the Chinese nationalist revolution (1911) was successful and had a great repercussion in our country. It was also the time when, thanks to the intervention of the French League for Human Rights, Phan Chu Trinh was released from jail and left for France. Young Thanh also wanted to go to France and other countries to see them for himself. He had to see clearly and understand correctly before making up his mind as to what had to be done. He was not hot-headed like many other youths. Although he was very enthusiastic and warm-hearted by nature, he always kept calm. He studied in silence, pondered over and worked out plans without rashness and undue haste.

But to go to France was no easy thing, depending merely on personal will. First he had to go to Saigon. There he entered the Technical school. The school trained seafarers and skilled workers for the Ba Son workshop. The students of this school were safe from suspicion, moreover they got scholarship and acquired a little technical knowledge. Another student of this school is Ton Duc Thang (now President of the DRVN.-*Ed.*). The course lasted three years. But young Thanh had no intention of carrying on his studies to the end. Three months later, after getting the job of cook's help on the steamship *Amiral Latouche Tréville* belonging to the shipping company *Chargeurs Réunis*, he quietly left the country.

From that day he travelled far and wide, along the road of the toiling people. For over ten years he went through a life of toil and moil, of hunger and cold as a cook's help, snow-sweeper, boilerman and photographer... provided that he could live on it to work for the revolution. He studied life in search of truth, through sufferings and hard work. He searched and went on searching tirelessly, braving all hardships. With a pure heart and two bare hands he went to France then round Africa, to England and America, visiting many countries in Europe. The farther he went from his home the more his mind turned to his Fatherland and the closer he was bound to his native land. Having clearly seen everywhere the cruel regime of the imperialists and colonialists and the deceitful appearance of capitalist democracy, he eventually discovered the truth. The fire of the Russian October Revolution had shed light for him. The truth is Marxism-Leninism, and the working class Party. Since then, on the road of truth, he has light-heartedly moved forward with the whole nation following in his steps. Actually by that time he had become the world-known Nguyen Ai Quoc, with the confidence of the Vietnamese nation, of tens of millions of toilers and a source of permanent anxiety for imperialism. For that reason Nguyen Ai Quoc had to change into Ly Thuy or Wang Shan-er in Canton, into Vuong in Shanghai, into contractor Chin in Siam, Sung Man-cho in Hong Kong, Lin in the periodicals written in French, organs of the Indo-Chinese Democratic Front... and now into Ho Chi Minh.

RETURN TO THE HOME COUNTRY

AFTER going round the world, the best son of the working class and of the nation arrived home at Pac Bo (Cao Bang province) early in 1941. He bent down, kissing his native land soaked with so much blood, sweat and tears. From Pac Bo he moved to Tan Trao then to Hanoi in the festive days of August. At the beginning of the Resistance War, he went to Thanh Hoa, the whole of Nghe An province waiting in expectation. But he could not go to his native province. Nghe An province missed him badly but could not voice its longing through grown-up people. Fortunately there was a child who softly spoke for them in a poetry competition organized by the Institute of Culture for Children in 1949. He dreamed of the joy of the children who met Uncle Ho, he envied their good fortune:

We live near Uncle Ho's village
Why have we not seen him?

However, who had the heart to blame him in the circumstances of the Resistance War? On the occasion of his brother Khiem's death in November 1950 Uncle sent a telegram home:

"I am very sad at the news of my eldest brother's death. Very busy with state affairs and because of the long distance I could not attend to my brother when he was ill and now that he is dead I cannot see to his burial.

"Alas! I am guilty of lack of devotion to my brother's soul and beg my relatives and friends to forgive a man who has sacrificed his family feelings for state affairs.

CHI MINH"

Peace was restored. The beams and pillars of the house the villagers had built for his father were gathered from here and there. As in the old days, fifty-five years ago, the people in great number, rebuilt the house in the old garden. About one year later he did come home. It was on June 9, 1957.

On the previous day, cadres from the provincial committee came to make preparations in his house. They said nothing, but the villagers guessed that he would come home. Only at midnight was there official news that he would come the following day. People were overjoyed. Lamps were lit in all houses and the inhabitants were busy cleaning and sweeping. Particular care was given to the kitchen. That night many villagers did not sleep a wink, looking forward to the morning.

Uncle arrived at eight o'clock in the morning. His motorcar stopped beside a new brick house built for the occasion. A member of the commune administrative committee invited him to step into the guest house to have tea. He refused saying, "The guest house is for the guest but I have returned home." At that time there were numerous errors in the restored house. The gate, which should be in front of the house was on one side. He did not enter this side-gate, his feet, used to the old way, led him along the fence of bamboo-trees and he entered the house right at the place where the old gate was situated. He went all over the house. The old house was divided into five rooms and the restored one had only three. The old back wall was made of plaited bamboo, the restored one was made of wood. The old ancestral altar consisted of a wooden plank nailed to two pillars above which was placed a bamboo lattice, the whole covered with a reed mat, the new one was made of wood.

He went round the garden, pointing to where the areca-tree, the grapefruit-tree, the breadfruit-tree and the lemon-tree were situated. He asked about the tombs. Then he went to the front yard. He inquired about the Coc well which was still there. He asked about the smith's. The young smith of the old days is now over seventy years old, a white-headed man who came out with a smile to welcome him.

He went to the family shrine to look at his father's flags and insignia. He dropped in at Mr Phuong's, which was one of the poorest households in the hamlet. That family is now much better off than before.

The whole village gathered in a wide lane to welcome him. He stood on a platform behind a table adorned with flowers. He picked up the vase saying, "Today the flowers are very beautiful. It is fifty two years since I left home. As a rule, when people return home they feel both joy and sadness. But today I feel joy only, because when I left home, our country was enslaved; and now on my return, half of our land is independent."

He spoke about other things and reminded people to take part in socialist emulation and promised that if they worked well, he would have another opportunity to come home. He gave the children two parcels of sweets and old folks three parcels of tea.

He again wished the villagers good health then got into his car which slowly moved out of the village followed by hundreds of eyes. The villagers were as bewildered as if they were dreaming. Now, people still speak of his return home. Every word, every gesture of his are remembered. They wonder at his retentive memory. In his talks with the villagers he used the dialect of Sen village without accent. These last few years, so many people have visited his village. It is as if they are returning to their own village, because every Vietnamese considers Uncle's native place his own. Foreign visitors who happen to pass through Vinh never miss a visit to that village. Words of love and respect in various languages have filled many visitors' books. Many comrades from abroad, especially Chinese comrades, also call him "Uncle", and consider themselves his nephews and nieces.

The visitors' books are reserved mainly for foreign visitors, but some of our compatriots also have written down their impressions. Our attention was drawn to these lines and we do not know whether the author is a man or a woman, "I walked forty kilometres to come here only to visit his village. I have made a point of watering the flowers in the courtyard before leaving."

At present, Uncle's village, like the whole North, has grown up markedly. Irrigation water has reached it, collectivization is nearing completion, the young fir-trees on Chung mountain have taken root, new schools are being built, and every day, news and songs are heard through a network of loud speakers from the Nghe An broadcasting station, the Voice of Viet Nam, Peking and Moscow Radios. Near the Doc Loi shrine there is a brick-kiln and at the base of Ru Thanh mountain a sugar refinery.

However, in the old days he left the country from Saigon and has not yet returned to Saigon nor to Hue. The South as a whole is looking forward to seeing him and is missing him badly:

At night, I always dream
Of the joyful day of reunification when "Uncle" comes
The highway is adorned with triumphal arches,
He arrives at the commune house and stands on high,
He smiles, his eyes as bright as stars,
He advises the compatriots in detail.

Our compatriots throughout the country and all our friends in the world are making every effort to enable that joyful day to come soon.

March 1960

* The Can Vuong Movement (1885-1896) *(Royalist movement): Led by the scholars, this anti French movement made eleven uprisings, the typical of which was started by Phan Dinh Phung.*

MEETING HIM IN PARIS

Told by BUI LAM

MANY inhabitants of Cam village in Haiphong province were seamen. Having travelled a great deal and seen many things and being sweated and oppressed, most were anti-French. I am a native of this village and my father was a sailor, so I hated the French colonialists from my young days and was fond of travelling. At the age of fifteen, I worked on board a ship of the *Chargeurs Réunis* and went to France. When the ship weighed anchor to make for the open sea I felt elated.

"Farewell motherland! Here are poverty and suffering! I leave you for good, never to see you again. Wait and see!" I said to myself.

The ship arrived in Marseilles. Immediately I was engulfed in a revolutionary atmosphere. It was then in late 1919. The mutiny of the French fleet in the Black Sea which took place early in that year in support of the Russian Revolution was still vivid in the people's minds and became a revolutionary wave spreading far and wide. I was much impressed by the story of French sailors hoisting red flags to greet the proletarian revolution. They tied up the officers including the commander, locked them up in the hold then sailed back to their country. They blew their sirens and entered Toulon port. The French Premier, Clémenceau, was in a rage and demobilized them. They went to work on merchant ships. The crews on these ships welcomed them as the Black Sea heroes and hailed the Russian Revolution. Like bees carrying pollen, the merchant ships spread the stories of the Black Sea to far away land.

On hearing these stories, new thoughts were gradually born in my mind. On the way to France, everywhere we found that all other countries were doing better than ours. Japan had its own steamships. Only the "Annamese" had nothing. We were both sad and angry. But now also we were discovered that in the world there was the socialist revolution, Lenin and proletarian power. Who were the proletarians? But I myself was one! And I felt at once tied to the Soviet Union and grew bolder.

Another event left a deeper imprint on us. There were so many events in that unforgettable year of 1919. In June of that year, the imperialists held the Versailles Conference to redivide the colonial market among themselves. Suddenly they were faced with the claims for self-determination for Viet Nam made by Nguyen Ai Quoc. The French called it a bomb. We called it a thunderbolt. The thunder in Spring melts the fog surrounding us, helping the seeds lying deep in our hearts to spring forth. We were overjoyed, as were all of us who had had to leave the country to earn our living, loved our fatherland and yearned for its independence. How could any of us refrain from admiring the man who stood up courageously to make claims in the national interests in the French capital itself and right at the "Big Powers" Conference, thus stirring public opinion throughout the world. At that time, whenever the Vietnamese met each other, they spoke of independence, self-determination and of Nguyen Ai Quoc. The name Nguyen Ai Quoc had an extraordinary attraction. When we mentioned that name we felt as if we were performing a very good deed and were stimulated by something.

I left Marseilles for Le Havre to work for a transatlantic shipping company with ships plying between Northern France, the Caribbean islands, Martinique, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, etc. and sometimes San Francisco and Canada. After each journey of four or five months, on my return I again met my compatriots, a few dozens in number, and we again spoke of Nguyen Ai Quoc's claims for independence. The story kindled a fire in our hearts which burst into flame, flared up and burned brightly. I remember that once I met in Peru a Chinese who had lived in Viet Nam for many years and spoke Vietnamese fluently. When he was aware that I was a Vietnamese, he could not part from me and asked me what was happening in Viet Nam, whether our people were still starving and suffering. Such a love for my country made me feel all the more bound to it and greater responsibility towards it.

In 1921, the French government held a colonial exhibition in Marseilles with a view to inducing the capitalists to invest more in the colonies in line with the policy of systematic exploitation of the colonies put forth by Albert Sarraut. In this exhibition, shame was brought on the colonies: Viet Nam was represented by a rickshaw. But the French organizers were unable to find any Vietnamese who was willing to hire himself out as a rickshawman. In a film on Viet Nam there but scenes of children easing their bowels on beds and grown-ups calling dogs to jump up and eat the excrements. Meanwhile King Khai Dinh and Pham Quynh who were visiting French cities, kept chanting "their gratitude to the civilizing and protecting country." We were very angry and time and again were about to set fire to the movie-house. Right at that time we read articles criticizing the colonial exhibition, the policy of racial discrimination and of exploitation by French colonialism. All these articles, dear to our heart, were signed by Nguyen Ai Quoc.

In July 1922, soon after my return from South America, a French friend in charge of our trade union gave me some issues of *Le Paria* published by Nguyen Ai Quoc. I read them passionately and eagerly as if a fire was burning in my head. Having read them through I dashed out to find some of my fellow-countrymen and we read to each other. Tears came to our eyes. How could the short and concise articles so much rouse up the heart and soul of those who had lost their country, of the oppressed and exploited toilers! They urged us to action. But we were at a loss as to what was to be done. It came to our minds that we had to see Nguyen Ai Quoc. After discussion my friends sent me to see him. I had long ago intended to go to see him but as I did not know his address I was afraid that I might get lost in Paris. Now that my friends had chosen me and having *Le Paria* in hand, I was very enthusiastic and eagerly set out. It seemed that Nguyen was aware that we would look for him and there would be nothing to fear in Paris once we got him.

I took the train and arrived in Paris at one p.m. After leaving the railway station, whenever I met a yellow-skinned man I held out *Le Paria* and asked the way. I thought that any yellow-skinned men were sure to be colonial people and the people in Paris must know *Le Paria*. As a matter of fact, many showed me the way. I succeeded in making my way to Marché des Patriarches Street in the 6th district. This was an old street. The office of *Le Paria* was in this street in front of a small market. In front of the office there was a letter-box with the name of the newspaper on it. The office was on the ground-floor and comprised two small rooms. Two North Africans were busily working, opening envelopes and writing.

They warmly welcomed me, asked me to wait, then went on with their work. Time and again I heard them ask each other, "Has Nguyen read this?", "Has Nguyen reviewed that?" It appeared that they held him in great respect. I looked round the office: A long table, with piles of newspapers in many languages – English, French, German – some chairs, and a big map on the wall. I quietly went to look at it. On the spot marked "Indo-China" finger and pencil marks had made the colours dull and the paper shiny. Someone must have often stood here and thought of that land! I also stood for a while. "Viet Nam is very far from Paris. How are my fellow-countrymen living?" I thought.

I waited for a very long time. At five, the North Africans told me that Nguyen would not come to the office that day and gave me his address in Gobelins Street, 13th district, over one kilometre from the office. I arrived in Gobelins Street, looked for number 6 and went to the first floor. My heart beat quickly. How was Nguyen Ai Quoc and how would he welcome me? I knocked at the door. Footfall, and the door opened. A man about thirty, tall, thin and pale, stood smiling before me.

"Who are you looking for, young man" (I was very young then, less than twenty)".

"I am looking for Mr Nguyen Ai Quoc".

"It's me. Come in, please!"

Oh! Nguyen was standing before me, smiling in a friendly way and with step opening his door to welcome me! I remembered that I stood still for a minute to have a good look at him, to see whether the man who had opened the door before introducing himself and that man were one and the same. It was one and the same man, the same tall, thin man in an old black coarse cloth suit and particularly these eyes, these remarkably big and bright eyes. I followed him into his room and at once felt myself at home. It was a single room with very simple furniture. A table stood in a corner. Plenty of newspapers, magazines and books. Nearby were an iron bed and a small wardrobe. Only that but the room was clean, well-lighted and homelike.

Nguyen inquired about my native place and the purpose of my visit, and how long my ship took to make a trip, how I got on with my living, whether my life was very hard. Only then did I know that he had also worked on ships. No wonder he spoke the sailor jargon. He had travelled a great deal, knew nearly all the places I had called at. He did not tell me that he had seen them but the way he asked about them showed that he knew them well. He was particularly interested in the life of the people of these countries. Then we switched over to our country. As he knew that I had left from Saigon, he asked many things about Saigon, the Ben Thanh market, the harbour, the stevedores, the horse-carts, etc. His eyes thoughtful, he asked me details of little things and listened attentively. We had a good talk. Time fled away. It was soon 9 p.m. and I had to take leave of him. He told me to come back next morning, a Sunday.

I returned to my room and went to bed thoughtful. Nguyen was so well-known, yet he was very simple, unassuming and friendly. Now that I had met him I had a greater respect and admiration for him. We seamen greatly valued good commanders and appreciated them. And I had entire confidence in him as I had never had in anyone else. With him I would weather storms and tempests without fear. He had an extraordinary attraction. Anyone who had met him, would like to see him again and stay by him.

(To be continued)

Nguyen Ai Quoc's lodgings (×) in Compoint Lane, when he lived in Paris.

DRVN Leaders Greet

NEW SOVIET SCIENTIFIC EXPLOIT

PRESIDENT Ton Duc Thang; Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the DRVN National Assembly; and Premier Pham Van Dong, sent on Oct. 24 a joint message greeting the successful group flight of the spaceships *Soyuz 6, Soyuz 7* and *Soyuz 8*.

The message, addressed to L.I. Brezhnev, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; N.V. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; and A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, said:

THIS new success of the Soviet science which has blazed the trail for the conquest of outer space, is a new source of encouragement for our people.

"On behalf of the Vietnamese people, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and in our own names, we wish to convey to the Soviet people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Soviet Union our warmest congratulations. We are convinced that the Soviet Union will record many and more brilliant achievements which will glorify socialist science and mankind.

"Please convey to the Soviet cosmonauts, scientists, engineers and workers who have contributed to this great success our warm congratulations."

LPFCC SPOKESMAN FLAYS THAILAND'S PARTICIPATION IN US WAR IN LAOS

THE spokesman of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front has issued the following statement condemning the direct participation of the Thailand reactionary administration in the US war of aggression in Laos, *KPL* reported:

"For many years now, the US imperialists have turned Thailand into a US new-type colony and military base to check the surging patriotic movement of the Asian peoples, especially the resistances against US aggression, for national salvation waged by the Laotian and Vietnamese peoples. On US orders, the Vientiane reactionary administration and the Thailand reactionary administration have been joining hands in repressing the patriotic drives of the Laotian and Thailand peoples.

"As everybody knows, US aircraft of various kinds, including B.52 strategic bombers, taking off from the US airbases in Thailand, have day and night carrying out ever fiercer bombardments on the free zone of the Laotian patriotic forces, from Upper to Lower Laos.

"Together with their intensified bombings, the US imperialists have thrown Thailand mercenary troops into terrorist operations against the Laotian people in villages bordering Laos and Thailand, especially in Sayaboury and Champassak provinces.

"To turn Thailand into a tool for the US imperialists' intervention and aggression in Laos, they have built and extended many strategic communication lines linking Thailand and Laos to transport ammunition, weapons and other war means to Laos, and secretly introduce Thailand mercenary troops into Laos. This is a serious violation of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, a cynical challenge to Laos' sovereignty, independence, and neutrality. For a long time now Thailand mercenary troops have mingled with rightist forces and have together with the latter occupied numerous localities such as Samthong, Longchen, Muongsui, Pathi.

"Of late, thousands of Thailand troops, together with chief Bandit Vang Pao's "special forces" and the rightist army under the direct command of US "advisers", have launched a large-scale encroaching raids on the liberated area in the Plain of Jars, Xieng Khoang province, committing barbarous crimes against local inhabitants. Everywhere they went, the invaders carried out their policy of "killing all, burning all, destroying all", perpetrating heinous crimes against our people. Through such brutal and brazen activities the Thailand reactionary administration have all the more exposed themselves as an active satellite of the US imperialists in Laos. American and Western press have admitted that there are now about 5,000 Thailand troops taking part in the war in Laos, that many US and Thailand aircraft have directly bombarded the Laotian liberated area and supported the Vientiane puppet troops' nibbling attacks against the patriotic forces.

"In spite of the use of thousands of Thai mercenary troops, and US and Thai Air Forces, the US imperialists and their stooges have received repeated and heavy blows from the Xieng Khoang patriotic armed forces who have so far put out of action 1,500 enemy troops, including many Thai mercenaries.

"The LPF as well as the Laotian people as a whole resolutely protest and strongly condemn the shameless intervention and aggression of the US imperialists and the Thailand reactionary administration, and demand that the latter stop at once every act of intervention and aggression in Laos, withdraw all US "advisers" and military personnel and Thailand troops together with weapons and other war means from Laos. So long as the US imperialists and their stooges in Thailand still intervene and invade Laos, the Laotian armed forces and people will continue to exercise their sacred right to self-defence, hit back at the enemy and deal at them yet heavier blows.

"The Thailand reactionary authorities — who are tailing after the US imperialists in opposing the Laotian people — like their masters, will meet with ignominious failure."

T.S.O. CONDEMNS U.S. CRIMES IN VIET NAM

THE Permanent Secretariat of the Tricontinental Solidarity Organization has released a statement condemning the crimes recently committed by the US imperialists against the Vietnamese people and reaffirming support for the latter's struggle.

After producing proofs of the most savage crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors against the South Viet Nam people, the statement said:

"The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the whole progressive mankind are highly indignant at the massacre committed by Nixon's men against women and civilians of South Viet Nam and demand that the Nixon administration put an immediate end to its fascist victimization in Thu Duc prison and other penal establishments in South Viet Nam.

"The Permanent Secretariat of the Tricontinental Solidarity Organization urgently calls on all mankind to severely condemn these terrorist acts and massacres against the women and people of South Viet Nam, to protest the Nixon administration and urge that it stop the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, withdraw totally, immediately and unconditionally its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, respect the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs themselves without US ingerence.

"The Permanent Secretariat of the Tricontinental Solidarity Organization reaffirms its full and unreserved support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression and for national salvation, to the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam which it considers to be the only sensible solution to the Viet Nam problem."

• • •

In the United States

Many American Personalities Protest US War in Viet Nam

ACCORDING to a Washington report, at a press conference held in Washington on October 23, C. Palmer, President of the American National Students' Association, strongly condemned the Nixon administration for attempting to discredit the anti-war movement of the US peace partisans. He declared that the members of the National Students' Association rejected the attacks by the US government against those opposed to the war in Viet Nam, and criticized US Vice-President Agnew for accusing the American demonstrators against the war of aggression in Viet Nam on October 15 (Viet Nam Moratorium Day) of "lack of patriotism". He stressed that the anti-war demonstrators had expressed the desire of the American people for an end to the war in Viet Nam and restoration of peace there.

C. Palmer also called on all Americans to participate actively in the demonstrations on November 15 for a speedy end to the US war in Viet Nam.

• Professor Salvador Luria a Nobel prize winner for medicine this year, who took part in the Oct. 15 Viet Nam Moratorium, recently declared:

"I belong to those who protest strongly against the war in Viet Nam. There are enormous differences in what is promoted by the government. Money is needed for the ghettoes, medical research and housing construction, but these needs are sacrificed for the Viet Nam war and our heavy military budget."

He said he would use his prize money for his family and "peace-promoting activities".

• According to the Washington *Evening Star*, at the meetings held on the Viet Nam Moratorium Day by students of many universities in Washington, New York and Boston, senators Goodell, E. Kennedy, McGovern, McCarthy and many other well-known American personalities demanded an end to the war in Viet Nam and the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

A NEW HEINOUS CRIME: SIX BUDDHISTS MURDERED BY PAK JUNG HI MERCENARIES

ON October 14, about 3 p.m. while Superior Bonze Thich Tan Tam and other bonzes were doing their routine work at Linh Son pagoda, 7 km from Phan Rang town, Ninh Thuan province, six Pak Jung Hi mercenaries, arms in hands, broke into the place and arrested two bonzes, Nguyen Trong, 71, and Phan Than, 69, a female bonze Nguyen Thi Doi, 47, and a chela, Nguyen Van Dung, 15. They were eventually lined up in the court yard of the pagoda and executed.

Reverend Thich Tan Tam, 71, head of the pagoda and advisor to the Buddhist Association of Ninh Thuan province, was manhandled by the mercenaries, led to a hill nearby and killed. Nguyen Van Con, 71, a servant at the pagoda, was marched away; his body was found three days later, Oct. 17: he was tied up, gagged and strangled at the derelict pagoda of Ba Nam Nhu, 50 metres away.

Only priestress Huynh Thi Nhat, 70, escaped this massacre: she had gone into hiding in time and was an eye-witness of the dastardly murder on the spot and could tell it in details to the local inhabitants.

The news of the massacre of these ten Buddhists spread like a wild fire to the locality, to all the provinces and all over South Viet Nam. Buddhist priests and believers have been streaming to Linh Son from everywhere to pray for the souls of the martyrs.

On the morning of Oct. 22, over 10,000 people, Buddhists and others, from all over South Viet Nam, held at Linh Son pagoda a requiem and burial rites for the six victims at the cemetery adjoining the pagoda. More than 500 buses, taxis, Lambrettas at Ninh Thuan town provided free transport on this occasion. Slogans, posters and funeral orations indignantly denounced the Pak Jung Hi mercenaries' odious crime and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique's attempt to hush it up.

7 Students of a Puppet Military Training Centre Buried Alive

GIAI Phong Press Agency reported that on October 3, 1969 the wicked thugs at the head of the military training centre at Tan Hiep, My Tho province, had buried alive 5 breakaway students. On the morning of Oct. 7, two others were arrested at the end of their leaves and interred breast-high. Shocked by these barbarous methods of the puppet authorities, 40 students of this training centre crossed over to the side of the people's forces.

Saigon Puppets'...

(Continued from page 8)

declare a few weeks ago that he would make no bones to take unpopular steps one of which being that tax increase, a direct outcome of the Vietnamization of the war. Harnessed to the war chariot of US imperialism whose tutelage is the only prop which prevents it from collapsing, the puppet administration embarks deeper and deeper on the path of treason.

Education in DRVN Highlands

(Continued from page 3)

walk from one end to another. In such conditions, the educational service had to work out the "Teachers go to pupils, schools near population centres, small-size establishments, the State and people's joint efforts" guiding principle. The schools in the mountain areas of the DRVN fall into the following categories:

— In the first category are "boarding general schools". While the children of the first and second grades attend classes in their own villages, those from the third grade upwards have to go to schools far from their villages. So, boarding schools have been opened for them. This is the kind of school most frequently seen in the mountain areas, supplying both second and third degree general education.

— In the second group are "schools for highland youth and children". The pupils are entirely supported by the government from the 1st to 7th forms and receive subsidies in the third degree in the form of food, text-books, paper, etc...

— In the third class are "short-term general schools" intended for those children who are still illiterate though having passed school age or whose primary education has been discontinued for some reason. After three years' schooling in the first degree they return to their villages to be village or co-op cadres. This kind of school has helped the speedy training of an increasing number of primary education-level cadres to run grass-roots administrative or economic organs and prepare them for higher forms.

— In the fourth kind are "part-time schools for cadres" — a form of complementary education for village or inter-village cadres. Every week the students learn three or four days and spend the remaining time doing farm work to produce part of their food or helping their families in farming.

— In the fifth category are "schools for youth of national minorities". The students receive half-scholarships. After class-time they have to participate in agricultural production to get part of their food and also to have opportunities to apply their knowledge to production. Thanks to this kind of school, each mountain village now has from 3 to 5 cadres with a secondary education standard upwards to serve as hard core in the local administrations, mass organisations or co-operatives.

STRIVING FOR HIGHER QUALITY

IN the training of cadres of minority origin and in the raising of the cultural standard of the highland population in general, we consider the numerical development an urgent task while attaching equal importance to improving the quality of education. This can be seen in the application of different forms of schooling as mentioned above and various methods suitable to local conditions. The syllabuses, text-books as well as contents of the lessons in each grade must be made compatible with the realities of production and life in the mountain areas as well as the mentality of the pupils of minority origin. Take the visual teaching aids for example. We are attaching particular importance to these because in view of the difficult geographical and economic conditions and the lingering effects of die-hard superstitions dating from the times of feudal and colonial domination, the pupils of minority people have had little access to science and technology and the realities of life. Slides, diagrams, etc... and on-the-spot scientific experimentations have been made an effective use of.

Another major measure that has a direct bearing on the cultural life of the minority peoples in general and the quality of education in particular is the elaboration and use of scripts for the minority peoples. Following the instructions of the Party and Government, we have devised alphabets for the Tay-Nung and Meo peoples and standardized the system of writing of the Thai. Tens of thousands of pupils of the Tay, Nung, Thai and Meo are following complementary courses or primary education courses in their own languages. Thousands of teachers of native languages have been trained, 300,000 text-books of 30 different kinds and written in the various languages of the national minorities have been put out. The dual teaching of standard Vietnamese and the native idiom in the first grade is bringing about satisfactory results in the improvement of quality of education. For example, the Yen Nguyen primary school (Tuyen Quang) has two schooling systems, one that alternates the teaching in standard Vietnamese with the teaching in the Tay-Nung language, the other teaches exclusively in standard Vietnamese. After a period, the dual system yielded better results. This is understandable since in the domain of intellectual education, the pupils of primary education are prone to acquire general scientific knowledge more easily through the medium of their mother tongue. For their part, the teachers also find it much easier to communicate their sentiments and ideas in their own mother tongues.

To the above-mentioned achievements of education in the mountain areas, teachers from the plains have made a worthy contribution. At present, among the 12 mountain provinces of North Viet Nam, lowland teachers make up 60% in the first degree, 70% in the third degree. This proportion is decreasing yearly with the opening of more teachers' schools of the first and second degree in the provinces and the Highland Teachers' College in the Viet Bac Autonomous Region.

PROSPECTS

EDUCATION in the mountain areas of North Viet Nam has progressed by leaps and bounds since the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (September 1945) and especially since the restoration of peace (1954). However, we are far from being satisfied with the present rate of both the numerical and qualitative development of education in view of the requirements of the revolution. The anti-illiteracy and complementary education campaign is still advancing at an even pace, and the proportion of pupils and teachers of national minorities is lower and lower as they proceed to higher grades, and equipment is still inadequate. We have inquired into those shortcomings and made a comprehensive assessment, on the basis of which our Party and Government have defined the following fundamental directions for the development of education in the mountain areas in the years ahead:

— Firmly grasp the particularities of each area, each nationality, with special attention paid to the highlands, remote areas and areas with a large minority population.

— To meet the immediate needs especially in the training and fostering of cadres of minority origin while making active contributions to the long-term and overall development of education in the mountains.

— To correctly combine the efforts of the highlands with the active assistance of the lowlands.

On the basis of the initial accomplishments and experiences, with the traditional love for learning of the Vietnamese people, and guided by the sound policy of the Party and Government on nationalities, education in the mountains of our country is certain to make bigger and steadier strides forward. This will enable them to catch up with the lowlands and open a bright future for national minorities all over the Vietnamese territory.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

Military Operations

NAM BO: *1,000 Enemy Casualties in Four Provinces (Oct. 15-26).*

SOUTHWEST OF PLEIKU: 400 Adverse Troops Wiped out (185 GIs) (Oct. 15-25).

IN Nam Bo (ex-Cochin-China) the PLAF attacked the enemy in various provinces, in the Saigon area as in the Mekong delta.

Intercepted in Tay Ninh province, a puppet battalion coming to the rescue of the "Rangers" beleaguered at **Thien Ngon**, 118 km northwest of Saigon, took 130 casualties; in the night its encampment was seriously damaged by a PLAF shelling. Thus, from Oct. 14 to 18, the enemy toll was 400.

South of Saigon, in Ba Ria province, the patriotic forces hammered at Australian mercenaries near **Nui Dat**, 67 km from Saigon (Oct. 26), inflicting on them heavy losses and downing 3 choppers. On Oct. 10 and 11, PLAF "ship hunters" set fire to two US 13,000-ton freighters, 25 km from Saigon. In Ben Tre province, at the mouth of the Mekong, on the night of Oct. 15, PLAF men stormed 20 enemy positions at **Mo Cay** district capital and its periphery (83 km south-southwest of Saigon): 190 enemy troops, 2 companies of puppet Infantry Division 7 and two 105-mm cannons put out of action and the residence of the district chief destroyed.

Further, in the Gulf of Thailand, an enemy raid was repelled at **Tho Son** (Rach Gia province), 230 km west-southwest of Saigon, and 370 adverse troops wiped out between Oct. 16 and 23.

In the Western High Plateaux, the HQ of Brigade 4, US Infantry Division 4, 20km southwest of **Pleiku**, was heavily bombarded by the PLAF: many GIs disabled, 2 petrol tanks burnt, 8 barracks and 13 casemates blotted out. Thus, between Oct. 15 and 25, the enemy in that area suffered 400 casualties (185 GIs), and lost 32 tanks and armoured cars. Further north, near **Plei Can** (Ben Het, west of Dakto), he also lost 30 men and 4 tanks in a PLAF ambush on Oct. 25. In the same sector, between Oct. 16 and 21, PLAF regional troops wrecked 9 military vehicles and grounded an helicopter.

On the seacoast of Binh Dinh province, PLAF men rushed on Oct. 27 a position held by South Korean soldiers at **Binh Khe**, 250 km south-southeast of Da Nang, wiping out 20 mercenaries and 5 military vehicles, as acknowledged by the enemy.

In three districts of the two northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam, PLAF regional troops knocked out 130 adverse soldiers and to military vehicles, and downed 5 choppers on October 11, 13, 15, 16 and 20.

South Viet Nam youths enlisting in the Liberation Army.

THREE GIs OF "AMERICAL" DIVISION RELEASED

THE Trung Bo Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL has decided, in line with the humanitarian policy of the Vietnamese people, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported, to set free Arthur Willer A. Watkins from Sumter (South Carolina), James H. Struckland Jr. from Dunn (North Carolina) and Coy R. Tinsley from Morton (Tennessee). These three American servicemen who belonged to the "Americal" Division stationed in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces, southeast of Da Nang, were captured respectively on January 10, 1968, January 8, 1968 and March 9, 1969.

The communiqué issued on this occasion mentioned the repentance of these GIs at the crimes they had committed against the Vietnamese people in the US war of aggression, the defeat of which, they recognized, would be inevitable. It also stressed that the American authorities should see to the security of these three released Americans and their prompt return home.

THE THIEU-KY-KHIEM CLIQUE EVER MORE ALIENATED

ON October 24, 1969, the "Social Democratic Party", one of the tiny political groups swarming in Saigon, and one of the six elements constituting the "Nationalist, Social and Democratic Front" set up by Nguyen Van Thieu, broke away the latter organization which has no roots in the masses.

The "Alliance", set afoot in May last to prop up the puppet regime, was intended by the US to put on it a democratic face. After endless hagglings, Thieu could rally behind him only six small groups in August 1969, to the detriment of the last of his partners, and yielding to the pressure of the US Embassy in Saigon, Thieu had to sack Tran Van Huong and reshuffle his government. However, the result of that change was the advent to power of Thieu's confidential agent and friend: Tran Thien Khiem.

In his defection letter, Trinh Quoc Khanh, head of the "Social Democratic Party", complained that Thieu had had the excessive ambition to monopolize all power thus reducing his confederates to simple figureheads.

In this connection the *Baltimore Sun* reported on Oct. 25 that the Alliance set up by Thieu was in its death's throes after the withdrawal of its most important constituent elements. *AFP* found on Oct. 25 that, after that withdrawal, Thieu's alliance was virtually disintegrated.

Besides, the same agency reported on Oct. 26 that seven "advisors" to the puppet Premier had been dismissed, including Vuong Van Bac, a member of the puppet delegation to the Paris Conference.

Saigon Puppets' New Anti-Popular Measure

ON October 23 last, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration decreed, under a deceptive label of austerity, a substantial tax increase on 1529 commodities, chiefly textiles and oil products. The tax rise swings between 100 and 650 per-cent of the present taxation rate.

The disastrous consequences have been not long to affect the cost of living. According to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, after the decision was issued, prices were skyrocketing. Rice, sugar, household articles were tens and even hundreds of *piastres* dearer than the previous days. *AFP* reported that buyers had swept everything from the market and within two days, goods unsold since July because of their high prices, were all disposed of. It was feared, the agency added, that prices would rise higher. *BBC* announced on October 28 that the goods had fetched twice dearer in the black market which was most thriving.

A Saigon paper wrote on this occasion, "This irregular tax increase on daily-use goods has provoked a dramatic price jump: rice, fuel, kerosene textiles, rose abruptly, giving the poor a shiver of horror when it does not choke them."

There were eddies among workers and 30,000 transport workers and employees threatened to strike (*AFP*, Oct. 28). Many TU organizations took similar decisions to demand readjustment of wages to the cost of living. The Students' General Association also called on the people to oppose this predatory measure of the quislings.

Besides, that anti-popular measure has had political repercussions among the men in the saddle whose antagonisms have been exacerbated. According to Western agencies, at an extraordinary session of the puppet Senate, 35 out of 40 "MPs" voted against the measure. In the "Lower House" 75 out of 76 "deputies" voted a motion censuring the government's decision as anti-constitutional. The Saigon regime is now deep in a serious crisis, *AFP* reported on Oct. 28. The political situation in Saigon is all the more chaotic and reflects US-puppet untenable position in South Viet Nam. Dictator Thieu was aware of this when he had the cheek to

(Continued page 7)